

FROM FORTRESS MONROE

YORKTOWN ADVICES TO MONDAY.

A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE.

The Rebel Works Abandoned at Shipping Point Formidable.

CURIOSITY OF THE REBELS AT SEWALL'S POINT.

REPORTED BATTLE AT CORINTH.

FORTRESS MONROE, Monday, April 7, 1862.

Via BALTIMORE, Tuesday, April 8.
The Spaniards came in this morning from Ship Point. The Rebel works abandoned there are quite formidable. The Rebels took off their guns, but left their banks complete. Ship Point is about eight miles from Yorktown, affording a fine base of operations.

A great crowd of Norfolk people assembled on the shore near Sewall's Point, on Sunday, including men, women, and children, eagerly engaged in watching the Yankees.

A Norfolk paper of this morning contains a dispatch from Mobile, dated the 6th inst., announcing the reception of news from Corinth that morning—a great battle; that the Confederates had taken eight Union batteries and a large number of prisoners, and that it was expected the whole Union army would be swept away. This is given as a specimen of the Rebel mode of keeping up the spirits of their people and the courage of their army.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 1, 1862.

The aspect of Old Point Comfort to the eyes of the newly-arrived stranger, is thoroughly characteristic of sea-board Dixie. He sees a long reach of sandy peninsula, the walls of an immense fortress, a flag-staff, a wharf or two, wooden houses, looking dazzlingly white in the bright sunshine, green, tumbling waves, and—soldiers. More of the latter, indeed, during the past month than were ever assembled together in any portion of this continent.

Old Point Comfort, or Fortress Monroe, for it is indifferently known by either appellation, derived its only importance, before the war, from its being a military depot and a watering-place. Southerners, affluent in the course of Canaan, came hither during the first heats of Summer, on their way to Northern wateringspaces, thronging its only hotel less densely, however, than we, invading Yankees, bent ruthlessly on their subjugation to the tyrannous ideal of the Union and Liberty. Here they enjoyed sea-bathing and the delicious sea breeze which always tempers the Summer solstice, and society of the aristocratic and military caste, dear to hearts of the nobles of the future Secession. Hampton, then a charming river-side village, with its neat hotels, its handsome houses and cottages of gentility, its old church and historical associations was adjacent; Norfolk not distant; Richmond within half a day's journey—a good deal too near, as it will prove for the perpetuity of the Presidency of Davis. All the surroundings were delightful and patriotic.

SECURITY AND CENSORSHIP.

The war, and, latterly, the dislocation of the army of the Potomac, of course, changed all this. For three weeks the waters of Hampton Roads were alive with the constantly-arriving transports, the armed loyalty on board being, for the most part, unconscious of its destination. The better-informed minority had heard whisper of "Yorktown, Suffolk, Norfolk—Richmond!" but nothing was definitely known, hence it landed on one of the two piers of Old Point Comfort, all eager but in comparatively indefinite expectancy. And the reportorial portion of us, who fully impressed with a sense of its public and private responsibilities, and burning to indite long letters inflammatory and descriptive of everything, found itself condemned to involuntary loading, forbidden by the exigencies of military censorship, real or supposed, to rend any but the barest of items—mere clippings and parings from the bulk of the great fact being transacted. I believe Gen. Wool's order has been printed in the New-York papers, including THE TRIBUNE, therefore it need not be inserted.

Very possibly it was prudent—necessary. The present writer remembers the bitter obstructions of the British officers in the Crimes on the early communications of Mr. Russell and other London journalists, setting forth how the enemy derived damaging and minute information of the position and intentions of the English army via St. Petersburg. Undoubtedly rebellion has obtained the means of conserving its wretched existence and postponing its inevitable downfall, by means of intelligence, indirectly or treacherously published in New-York newspapers. And, for anything we knew, the important secret involved in the removal of the army of the Potomac, had been well kept. To be sure, THE NORFOLK DAY BOOK and a Fredericksburg journal had contained something relative to the arrival of many transports at Old Point Comfort, with the suspicion that their destination might be the reinforcing of Burnside; and Sewall's Point, with its Rebel battery, was at no greater distance than five miles, so that a good glass leveled in the direction of Fortress Monroe must have revealed matters ominous to secession interests, to say nothing of the impudent gunboat that came out of Norfolk on the afternoon of March 31, and fired an abortive cannon-ball in the direction of Newport News—but that was all. Gen. Wool, too, possessed the power of sending any reportorial transgressor of his orders North with the utmost celerity, and would probably exercise it. Influenced by which considerations—a combination of the patriotic, prudent and courageous—we noted down all that transpired, in silence, or mailed it only as provision against the time when it might be safely presented to the public eye. We became of the order of those who serve by standing and waiting.

THE POINT DURING DEBARKATION.

Old Point Comfort was, inevitably, almost exclusively military during the disembarkation. Its docks, its sandy beach, its hotel, its fort, its mazy roads stretching toward Camp Hamilton and the open country were crowded with soldiers. You were aroused in the morning by their measured tread, as they tramped past, and by the inspiring strains of martial music; you took an after-breakfast walk to the pier to look at the newly arrived transports, freighted almost to the water's edge with men and menses; you lingered amid the uniformed crowd to witness their debars landing, their march onward, and temporary disappearance; you rode east through a road obstructed with menses, gun-carriages and ambulances to a review of 10,000 soldiers in the afternoon and at night heard the steam whistles announcing fresh accessions, retiring to rest as a sentry's challenge of "Who goes there?" echoed between your chamber window. And the odds were that you dreamt torn on things military and belligerent.

The local little restaurants attached to it, that adjacent to the wharf, roared a peccary harvest. The locality is exclusively military and governmental, that is to say, apart from that owned by Uncle Sam, was hardly to be had for love or money.

Officers slept two in a bed, in six-bedded rooms; reporters considered themselves fortunate in obtaining a half-blind apartment in which to hurriedly put down each day's experiences—happy those whom former acquaintance with or the hospitality of some officer of the garrison secured them a welcome lodgment in one of the spacious and comfortable casemates of the fortress. Everywhere you encountered uniforms, bayonets, forage caps, and the high boots which the mud of Virginia has rendered identical with the Army of the Potomac.

THE HARBOUR.

From Old Point Comfort to Hampton and Newport News, the harbor was gay with vessels, some of them venturing in incipient propensity to the Rebel shore, inasmuch that the possibility and effects of a shot from Sewall's Point through the boiler of an ironclad was a contingency frequently impressed upon the mind of the spectator. Men, horses, horses, and forage, afoul or in progers of debarkation, were visible on every hand. Sometimes a hundred sailing vessels, crowded with menses, arrived daily, the long-ware cargo being discharged by the simple process of throwing it into the water, when it, intrinsically and collectively, always got safe to land. The San Jacinto, notable for its part in the Trent affair, lay out in the Roads; the Richmond, which conveyed the Rebel Embassadors to England; two English and two French frigates; the Minnesota, the Vanderbilt, & undergoing a strengthening process, in anticipation of the reappearance of the Rebel monitor Merrimac; half-a-dozen gunboats; and, best of all, the brave, invulnerable little Monitor, with her half-dozen of cannon-ball guns, her cylindrical iron "cheese-box," and submerged "raft," confidently expecting another naval battle with her gigantic antagonist, and quite ready for it. Such was the aspect of Hampton Roads and Old Point Comfort, in March, 1862.

THE EMBARKATION.

A hundred thousand men are not transported for a distance of 250 miles in a day. The army of the Potomac began to move down the Potomac on the 15th of March. Innumerable vessels had been quietly chartered by the Government for this service, river and lake steamers, almost of all sorts and sizes, from those familiar with the waters of the Penobscot to the cold seas of the Arctic. They were despatched from the 15th of March. The Spaniards came in this morning from Ship Point. The Rebels took off their guns, but left their banks complete. Ship Point is about eight miles from Yorktown, affording a fine base of operations.

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THE ADVANCE UPON YORKTOWN.

Correspondence of The Philadelphia Enquirer.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 6, 1862. Friday, the 4th inst., was the day fixed for the movement on to Yorktown. Gen. McClellan and staff arrived at Fortress Monroe on Wednesday, to board the steamer Commodore. The troops were full of enthusiasm, and looked forward to an advance movement. They concluded that the enemy would not stand to give them a "show" of Northern prowess. The soldiers, however, were greatly disengaged.

The exposed plan of operations was as follows: First, the successful, rapid, and, if possible, secret transmission on four of five of the great corps d'armes of the Potomac, namely, McDowell's, Sumner's, Heintzelman's, and Keyes' to Fortress Monroe, Hampton, and Newport News. Secondly, the gradual occupation of the plateau in the rear of Hampton, hitherto caged at will by the Rebel cavalry, baying their base of operations at Yorktown, under Magruder, the early arrivals advancing inland, the later following and filling up the spaces vacated by them. Next the stretching out of the lines toward Newmarket Bridge, frequent reconnoissances in force to and beyond Big and Little Bethel and to Black River. Then the seizure of Yorktown. Finally, either the simultaneous advance upon Norfolk and Richmond, or the cutting of the lines of communication of the rebels.

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